

# ABOUT THE CDC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strives to achieve its vision, *Healthy People in a Healthy World--Through Prevention*, by promoting health and quality of life and preventing disease, injury, and disability. As a cornerstone of the nation's public health system, CDC collaborates with partners throughout the nation and the world to:

- Monitor health status and trends.
- Detect and investigate health problems.
- Conduct research to enhance prevention.
- Develop and advocate sound public health policies.
- Implement prevention strategies.
- Promote healthy behaviors.
- Foster safe and healthy environments.
- Provide leadership and training.

Six centers, one institute, and four program offices make up the CDC and reflect the scope of public health issues and activities in which the agency is engaged.

## CENTERS

The **National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP)** champions the prevention of disability and premature death from chronic diseases by promoting maternal, infant and adolescent health; conducting screening and detection of chronic disease; and promoting healthy personal behaviors. NCCDPHP collaborates with health and education agencies, major voluntary associations, the private sector, and others to reach its vision of enabling all people in an increasingly diverse society to lead long, healthy, satisfying lives.

The **National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)** promotes health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment outside the workplace. The center works on such issues as hazards in our water, food, and air; hazards in our homes; and birth defects and developmental disabilities. The center also serves as the national

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coordination point for programs working to prevent disabilities and secondary conditions that reduce independence for disabled persons.

The **National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)** collects, analyzes, and disseminates health data that are timely, accurate, and relevant in protecting and promoting the nation's health. The center monitors the health of Americans from birth to death to generate nationally representative estimates of disease prevalence and incidence and general health status and trends.

The **National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention (NCHSTP)** leads national efforts to prevent and control human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and tuberculosis (TB). The center collaborates with partners at the community, state, national, and international levels, applying well-integrated, multi-disciplinary programs of research, surveillance, technical assistance and evaluation.

The **National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID)** combats illness, disability, and death caused by infectious diseases in the United States and around the world. The center collaborates with state and local health departments and other organizations to conduct disease surveillance, epidemic investigations, epidemiologic and laboratory research, training, and public education programs. NCID continues to expand implementation of CDC's strategic plan for preventing and controlling microbial threats in the United States and internationally.

The **National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC)** guides national efforts to reduce the incidence, severity, and adverse outcomes of intentional and unintentional injury in the United States. As the lead federal agency for injury prevention, NCIPC works closely with other federal agencies and national, state, and local organizations to reduce injury, disability, and premature death caused by motor-vehicle crashes, fires, drownings, poisonings, suicide, and homicides, and other preventable injuries and violent acts.

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## INSTITUTE

The **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)** provides national and world leadership in the identification and prevention of work-related illness, injury, and death. The institute uses public health strategies to track occupational health issues, diagnose problems, develop effective prevention approaches, and reduce or eliminate illnesses and injuries in the workplace.

## OFFICES

The **Epidemiology Program Office (EPO)** strengthens the public health system by coordinating disease surveillance at CDC. This office also provides domestic and international support through scientific communications, statistical and epidemiologic consultation, and training of experts in surveillance, epidemiology, applied public health, and prevention effectiveness.

The **National Immunization Program (NIP)** promotes prevention of disease, disability, and death from vaccine-preventable diseases. NIP takes the lead in coordinating the planning and implementation of the Childhood Immunization Initiative and other vaccine programs for children and adults at the federal, state, and local levels.

The **Office of Global Health (OGH)** leads CDC's collaboration with other nations and international organizations to promote health and prevent disease worldwide. OGH facilitates all of CDC's international activities including strengthening the public health capacity of other nations, and providing scientific and management expertise for developing countries.

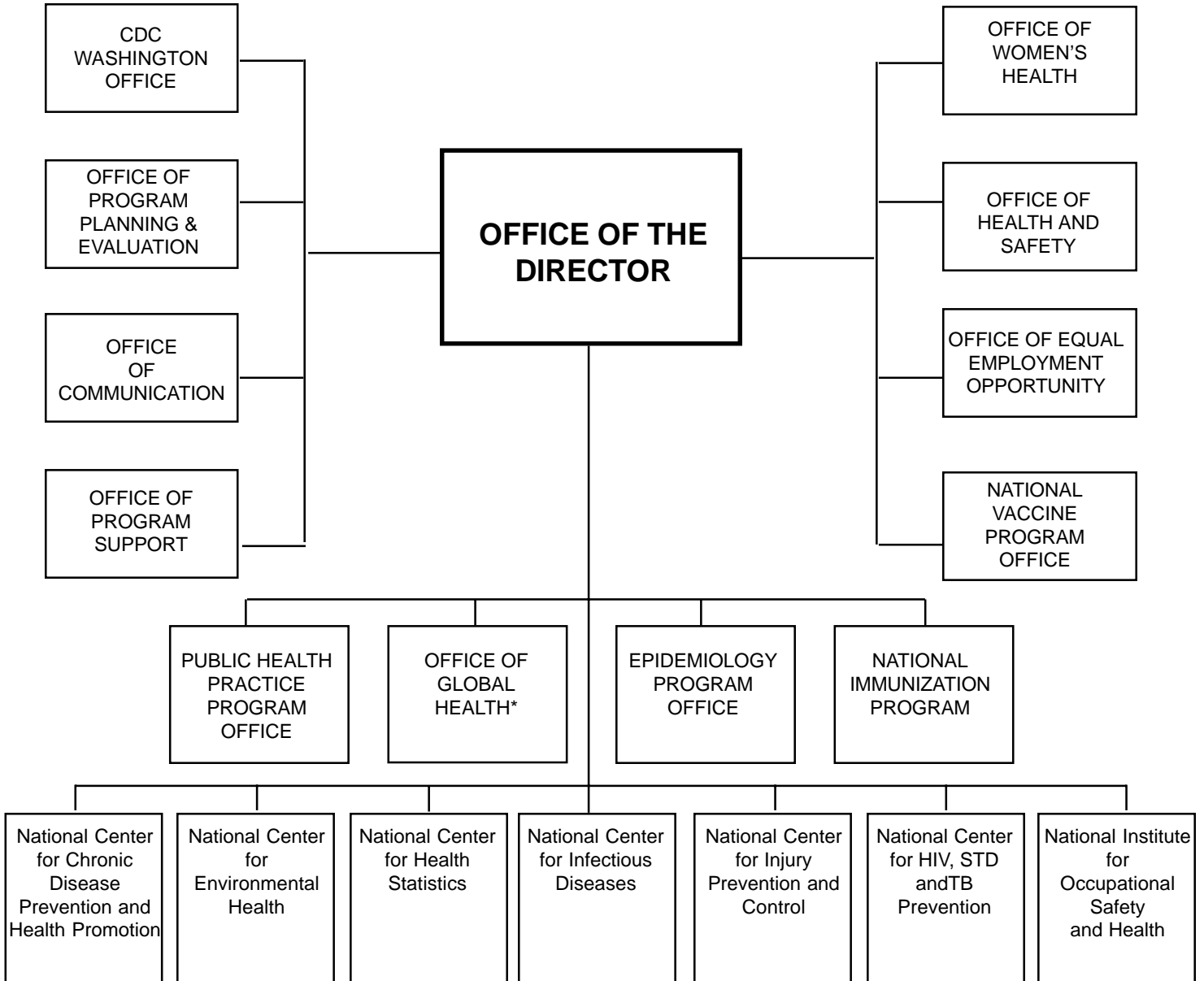
The **Public Health Practice Program Office (PHPPO)** is responsible for strengthening the public health system by building an effective public health work force, developing public health leadership, communicating information for public health action, and establishing a science base for public health practice.

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# CDC ORGANIZATION



*\*Name pending*

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# AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

**T**he Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease (ATSDR) was established in 1980 by the Comprehensive Environmental Compensation and Liability Act, also known as Superfund. The Agency has a broad mission: to prevent exposure and adverse human health effects and diminished quality of life associated with exposure to hazardous substances from waste sites, spills and other unplanned releases, and other sources of environmental pollution. The director of CDC serves as the administrator of ATSDR.

- ATSDR has evaluated public health threats in thousands of communities near hazardous waste sites. This involves gathering information about environmental contamination, community health concerns, and health outcome data. The agency uses this information to recommend health investigations, health education for the public and health-care providers, and public health actions to prevent or lessen exposure.
- ATSDR health investigations use epidemiology and surveillance to help understand the relationship between exposure to hazardous substances and illness. At particular hazardous waste sites, these investigations have found increases in the risk of birth defects, neurotoxic disorders, cancers, respiratory dysfunction, and immune disorders.
- ATSDR and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have jointly ranked 275 Superfund hazardous substances in order of health importance. ATSDR has prepared a toxicological profile for each of these about the known health effects of these substances.
- Since 1983, ATSDR has collected data on emergency events involving the release of hazardous substances in the United States to better understand the health effects. ATSDR also helps victims of these events by providing on-site and telephone technical assistance.
- ATSDR's *HazDat* is a unique integrated database that compiles information on hazardous substances released and the health effects they cause. Portions of *HazDat* are available on-line at <http://atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080/atsdrhome.html>.

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# CONTACTING CDC

## E-Mail

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|
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| Division of Media Relations   | ccdinfo@cdc.gov     |
| Environmental Health          | ln.The.News@CDC.gov |
| Epidemic Intelligence Service | cehinfo@cdc.gov     |
| Global Health Odyssey         | eisepo@cdc.gov      |
| Health Statistics             | global@cdc.gov      |
| HIV/AIDS                      | paoquery@cdc.gov    |
| Immunization                  | hivmail@cdc.gov     |
| Infectious Diseases           | niphompage@cdc.gov  |
| Injuries                      | NCID@CDC.GOV        |
| Occupational Safety/Health    | OHCINFO@cdc.gov     |
| Sexually Transmitted Diseases | pubstaft@cdc.gov    |
| Tuberculosis                  | NCHSTP@cdc.gov      |
|                               | tbinfo@cdc.gov      |

## Telephone Numbers

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>CDC</b> -----                        | (800) 311-3435 |
| <b>Disease Information</b> -----        | (888) 232-3228 |
| Division of Media Relations -----       | (404) 639-3286 |
| Epidemic Intelligence Service -----     | (888) 496-8347 |
| Freedom of Information Act Office ----- | (404) 639-7270 |
| Global Health Odyssey -----             | (404) 639-7888 |
| Job Line -----                          | (888) CDC-HIRE |
| Public Inquiries -----                  | (800) 311-3435 |

## Internet

### CDC

<http://www.cdc.gov>

### CDC/Washington

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/wash/>

### Associate Director for Minority Health

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/admh/>

### Associate Director for Science

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/ads/index.htm>

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**Epidemiology Program Office**

<http://www.cdc.gov/epo/index.htm>

**Freedom of Information Act Office**

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/foia/foi.htm>

**Global Health Odyssey**

<http://www.cdc.gov/global>

**Management Analysis and Services Office**

<http://www.cdc.gov/maso/>

**Division of Media Relations**

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media>

**National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health**

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/index.htm>

**National Center for Environmental Health**

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ncehome.htm>

**National Center for Health Statistics**

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww>

**National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention**

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/nchstp.html>

**National Center for Infectious**

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/ncid.htm>

**National Center for Injury Control and Prevention**

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/ncipchm.htm>

**National Immunization Program**

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip>

**Office of Genetics & Disease Prevention**

<http://www.cdc.gov/genetics/default.htm>

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**Office of Global Health**

<http://www.cdc.gov/ogh/>

**Office of Women's Health**

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/owh/whhome.htm>

**Office of Safety & Health**

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/>

**Public Health Practice Program Office**

<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/>

**Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

<http://http://atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080/>

**National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.htm>

**Publications On-Line**

- ◆ Blue Sheet (foreign travel)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/blusheet.htm>
- ◆ The C.A.USE (antibiotic-resistance)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/cause/cause.htm>
- ◆ Chronic Disease Notes & Reports  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/cdnr.htm>
- ◆ Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/eid.htm>
- ◆ FOCUS (infectious diseases)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/focus/index.htm>
- ◆ Green Sheet (cruise ship inspections)  
[ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/ship\\_inspections/shipscore.txt](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/ship_inspections/shipscore.txt)
- ◆ HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report  
[http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv\\_aids/dhap.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv_aids/dhap.htm)
- ◆ Injury Control Update  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/newslett/2vol2.pdf>
- ◆ *MMWR*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/eppo/mmwr/mmwr.html>
- ◆ Monthly Vital Statistics  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/>
- ◆ TB Notes  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/notes/notes.htm>

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# CDC HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

## The 1940s

- 1946 The **Communicable Disease Center**, or CDC, opens in the old Office of Malaria Control in War Areas in downtown Atlanta. Part of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), the CDC has a mission to work with state and local health officials in the fight against malaria (still prevalent in several Southern states), typhus, and other communicable diseases.
- 1947 CDC provides disaster assistance during **multiple chemical explosions** (Texas City, TX), that killed hundreds of people. Thereafter, designated as the PHS agency to administer aid in times of disaster or epidemics.

## The 1950s

- 1951 The **Epidemic Intelligence Service** (EIS) is established. EIS quickly becomes the Nation's—and world's—response team for a wide range of health emergencies. EIS officers make house calls around the world.
- CDC broadens its focus to include polio and establishes closer relationships with the states. **National disease surveillance** systems begin.
- 1955 The **Polio Surveillance** Unit is established.
- CDC develops **fluorescent antibody test** for rapidly identifying bacterial and viral pathogens.
- 1957 The **Influenza Surveillance** Unit is established.
- 1958 CDC sends its **first team** of epidemiologists overseas — to Pakistan — in response to a request for help during an epidemic of cholera and smallpox in Southeast Asia.
- 1959 Develops a fluorescent antibody test for rabies and uses it in a field test with 100% accuracy.

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## The 1960s

- 1960 CDC moves to its present headquarters: 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA.
- 1961 Takes over publication of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, which publishes important public health updates and data on deaths and certain diseases from every state every week.
- 1963 CDC begins tests of the **jet injector gun** and smallpox vaccines in the Pacific Island nation of Tonga.
- 1966 Launches the **Smallpox Eradication** Program to eradicate smallpox and control measles in 20 African countries. Smallpox, a disease that killed millions of people over the centuries, was eradicated from the world in the late 1970s.
- CDC announces the first national **measles eradication** campaign.
- 1967 Establishes the **Family Planning** Evaluation Unit to provide technical assistance to newly established family planning clinics. The unit also helps to determine the safety and efficacy of contraceptive methods.
- 1968 CDC conducts the first major initiative in international **famine relief** in Nigeria, West Africa.
- Investigates a puzzling epidemic of an unidentified, highly infectious respiratory disease in Pontiac, Michigan (later identified as **Legionnaire's disease**).
- 1969 CDC participates in the quarantine of **astronauts** returning from the first walk on the moon and the examination of moon rock specimens.
- CDC holds a world conference on **Hong Kong flu**.

## The 1970s

- 1970 The Communicable Disease Center is **renamed** the Center for Disease Control to reflect a broader mission in preventive health.
- Begins the **Birth Defects** Monitoring Program.

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- CDC establishes the National Nosocomial Infections Surveillance system to monitor trends in **infections acquired in hospital settings**.
- 1971 Discovers that hepatitis B is sexually transmitted.
- 1973 The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (**NIOSH**), which protects Americans from on-the-job hazards, becomes part of CDC.
- 1975 Establishes the **Vessel Sanitation Program** in cooperation with the cruise ship industry.
- 1976 CDC investigates an outbreak of illness in Philadelphia now called Legionnaire's disease. The following year, CDC isolates the causative agent for this disease: *Legionella pneumophila*.
- Leads public health teams to Zaire and the Sudan to investigate two large outbreaks of **Ebola** hemorrhagic fever.
- 1977 The last case of endemic smallpox in the world is reported in Somalia.
- 1978 CDC opens an expanded, maximum-containment laboratory ("**hot zone**") to handle viruses too dangerous to handle in an ordinary laboratory.
- 1979 Investigates health effects related to the **Three-Mile Island** nuclear incident.
- Begins trial studies of hepatitis B vaccines.
- CDC assigned lead responsibility for environmental emergency response.

## The 1980s

- 1980 The agency is **renamed** the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to reflect a change in organizational structure. (*Note: "s" added to Center*)
- CDC organizes a task force on **toxic shock syndrome**.
- Assists in the study of health effects related to the **Mount St. Helens** volcanic eruption.

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- CDC assumes primary responsibility for promoting the **health of refugees** resettled in the United States.
- 1981 With the California Department of Health, CDC reports the first cases of an illness which later will be called acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (**AIDS**). Organizes a task force of personnel from each CDC center to respond to evidence of an epidemic.
- CDC assists in the first **redesign of the jackhammer** in 50 years to reduce “white finger” disease, a disabling occupational condition.
- 1982 CDC focuses on the prevention of disease and injury related to **alcohol abuse**.
- Initiates the Fatal Accident Circumstances and Epidemiology Program. The program identifies state-specific leading causes of **workplace deaths**, and the types of jobs that put workers at greatest risk.
- CDC receives first reports of AIDS in a person with hemophilia (from a blood transfusion), and in infants born to mothers with AIDS.
- 1983 CDC establishes a Violence Epidemiology Branch to apply public health prevention strategies to the problems of **child abuse, homicide, and suicide**.
- Begins **National AIDS hotline** to answer growing concerns of U.S. citizens.
- CDC identifies **exercise as a priority** research topic because of its influence on the reduction of heart disease, weight control, and symptoms of depression.
- 1984 Publishes infection control guidelines for **child care settings**.
- CDC begins long-term assistance to **India** in assessing the health effects of a **poison gas leak** at a chemical plant in Bhopal (2,000 deaths; thousands injured).
- 1985 Reported cases of **TB** are rising sharply; evidence mounts of a

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**multi-drug resistant** strain of the disease.

CDC provides disaster relief assistance to Mexico after a **major earthquake** in its capital (**Mexico City**), and to Puerto Rico and Colombia following devastating mud slides in those areas.

Co-sponsors the first International Conference on AIDS.

1986 The **Office on Smoking and Health**, which targets the Nation's primary preventable health problem, becomes part of CDC.

Establishes the Medical Examiner/Coroner Information Sharing Program to improve the quality of death investigation examinations and collection sharing among medical examiners, coroners, and public health officials.

1987 CDC reports a strong association between **Reye syndrome** and aspirin, noting that 90 percent of cases could be prevented by reducing the use of aspirin for treating children with chickenpox or flu-like illnesses.

1988 Sends information related to the prevention of HIV/AIDS — *Understanding AIDS* — to every household in America. The **largest mailing in CDC's history**.

1989 CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) establish a collaborating center for disaster preparedness.

Develops **new certificates** for reporting births, deaths, and fetal deaths, which are adopted nationwide. The new certificates provide data essential for prevention, research, and health education.

CDC identifies the agent (now called **hepatitis C**) of the majority of cases of parenterally transmitted non-A, non-B hepatitis.

## The 1990s

1990 CDC begins development of a national strategic plan for the early detection and control of **breast and cervical cancers** among all American women.

Reports possible transmission of HIV to a patient during invasive dental procedures.

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- CDC conducts the first national Youth Risk Behavior Survey to measure the prevalence of high-priority risk behaviors among teens.
- 1991 CDC conducts the **first large-scale health survey** to employ computer-assisted interviewing.
- Establishes the Division of **Oral Health** to expand efforts to prevent oral disease and conditions.
- CDC participates in an evaluation of the health effects of the **Kuwait oil fires**.
- 1992 Congress mandates a **new title for the agency** — Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — but the CDC initials are retained. (*Note: “p” is not used*).
- 1993 CDC assists in the investigation of a “mystery” illness in the Four Corners region of the U.S. Later that year, CDC isolates a **new hantavirus**, Sin Nombre Virus.
- Traces a serious outbreak of food poisoning in Washington state (and eventually three other states) to ground meat served at a restaurant chain. The hamburgers were contaminated with ***E. coli* O157:H7**.
- CDC supports the screening of more than 1.7 million children for **lead poisoning**; 75,000 are found to have elevated blood lead levels.
- Investigates risk factors for death and injury associated with the **World Trade Center explosion** and fire in New York City.
- CDC traces outbreaks of serious illness to environmental exposures of ***Cryptosporidium*** in drinking water.
- 1994 CDC establishes the Office of **Women’s Health**.
- Releases the *Surgeon General’s Report on Preventing Tobacco Use Among Young People*, the **first report** to focus exclusively on **tobacco use by teens and young adults**. Also publishes an analysis of brand preferences of teen smokers, and symptoms of nicotine withdrawal among teens and young adult tobacco users in the U.S.

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- 1995 CDC goes onsite in Zaire to investigate an outbreak of deadly Ebola virus.
- Recommends **AZT therapy** for HIV-infected pregnant women to reduce transmission of the virus to their babies.
- CDC publishes a prevention strategy for addressing **emerging infectious disease** threats in the United States.
- 1996 CDC **celebrates 50 years** as the “Nation’s Prevention Agency” and a first-rate response team for a wide range of health emergencies both at home and abroad.
- Opens the **Global Health Odyssey** (GHO), a special exhibit area that is both a visitors' center and an interactive educational facility. The GHO serves as a bridge to the public that supports CDC's mission by educating all who visit about the value of prevention-based public health.
- 1997 CDC participates in the **Presidential Apology on the Tuskegee Study** — a nationally televised White House event — to redress the wrongs of the past and help restore the confidence of Americans in their government.
- CDC assists in the investigation of a new strain of flu in humans in Hong Kong; 18 cases and six deaths due to **influenza A (H5N1)** are reported.
- CDC issues its **first report on fertility clinics**, 1995 Assisted Reproductive Technology Success Rates, National Summary and Fertility Clinic Reports. “
- 1998 The first SurgeonGeneral's report to focus on **tobacco use among minorities in the United States** is released; *Tobacco Use Among U.S. Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups*.
- 1999 For the first time, **CDC names a campus and a building after a person**. The Edward R. Roybal campus and the Edward R. Roybal Laboratory are named after Congressman Edward R. Roybal, a former public health funding for CDC buildings and research during his career.

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